



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JERRY E. ABRAMSON
MAYOR

Dear Fellow Citizens,

I am pleased to present the second budget plan for Louisville Metro Government. Despite a challenging and uncertain economy, I am excited about the work we've done together since merger to address the needs of our community and to build a foundation for our future.

Limited resources don't mean a limited vision for the future of our hometown. Our primary focus in this year's budget: investing in unmet infrastructure needs throughout our community; new initiatives that will build stronger, healthier neighborhoods; and a continued commitment to our No. 1 priority – your safety and security.

Most significantly, this budget proposes a "Foundation for Our Future Capital Program" — a \$25 million investment over the next three years to address scores of long delayed and critically needed repairs and renovations of our community's infrastructure. With this budget, we are pledging to address those deferred maintenance needs — from firehouses and parks to sidewalks and streets. We're investing additional dollars in our neighborhoods as well as efforts to recruit and retain good jobs for our citizens. And we're addressing the health of our community with a commitment to a first-ever, comprehensive air-toxics reduction program.

Once again, public safety remains our top priority. The police department is receiving the largest investment of any department in Metro Government. We will provide new equipment that will better protect police and citizens, and we'll put another 13 officers on the streets and in your neighborhoods. We've put 80 more officers on the streets since merger in 2003 – more than at any time in our community's history. And we're funding two new recruit classes in the coming year, adding 60 more officers. We're also funding a new recruit class for the fire department and completing the merger of our EMS services.

We are continuing our effort to streamline the operations of government to provide you with enhanced basic services without increases in taxes. With this budget, we're eliminating 90 positions that are no longer necessary and we're adding about 40 positions where more personnel are needed to do the job better.

Together, we are building a foundation for our future – a foundation based on a steadfast commitment to create a more efficient, cost-effective and responsive government to serve you better. The result of our efforts will be a city that we all can be proud to call home.

Sincerely,

Jerry E. Abramson
Mayor